

1. Estimates & Projections of Veteran Dementia Prevalence and Incidence

The VHA Geriatrics and Extended Care Strategic Healthcare Group and the Office of the Assistant Deputy Undersecretary for Health (ADUSH) have released estimates and projections of veteran dementia prevalence and incidence for 2002-2022 for three segments of the veteran population: (a) general veteran population, (b) population enrolled in the VA health care system, and (c) population both enrolled and receiving services in the VA health care system. Spreadsheets, charts, and a report of methods are available via several Web sites: <http://www.va.gov/vhareorg>, <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/healthcare/index.htm>, and <http://www1.va.gov/GeriatricsSHG/page.cfm?pg=2>.

2. 2004 Corporate Databases Monograph Issued

The VHA National Data Systems (NDS) division of Health Data and Informatics, VHA Office of Information, has issued the *2004 Corporate Databases Monograph*. The updated monograph describes 92 VHA data sources in terms of an Overview, Features, and a Table of Important Database Characteristics. NDS is making the monograph available in PDF and Word formats on its VA Intranet Web site and in PDF format on the VIREC Web site at <http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov>.

3. VIREC Becomes Member of VHA Data Consortium

Effective March 2004, VIREC's status with the VHA Data Consortium was changed from Consultant to Member, making it now one of 12 offices who are members and the only member representing VA researchers. The Data Consortium was formed in 1998 at the request of the Deputy Undersecretary for Health and under the guidance of the Chief Policy and Planning Officer (now Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health). Its mission includes supporting the Information Data Management Committee of the National Leadership Board, providing support for common data concerns of the member offices, providing guidance to VHA regarding data quality concerns, providing support to VHA toward enhancing its data credibility, and serving as a resource of data experience and expertise on which the VHA may draw. Researchers may communicate data issues and concerns to the Consortium through VIREC's regular representative, Linda Kok, 708-202-2413 or kok@research.hines.med.va.gov.

4. Course on "VA Databases for Research" at Seattle ERIC Summer Session

The VA Seattle Epidemiologic Research and Information Center (ERIC) 6th Annual Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Clinical Research Summer Session will be June 21-25, 2004, at the University of Washington campus in Seattle. Among the classes to be offered is "VA Databases for Research," taught by Denise M. Hynes, R.N., Ph.D., M.P.H., Min-Woong Sohn, Ph.D., and Linda Kok, M.A., of VIREC. Full information on the Summer Session and this week-long course are at the Seattle ERIC Web site, <http://www.eric.seattle.med.va.gov/>.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DISSEMINATE TO COLLEAGUES! *Data Issues Briefs* are developed by the staff of the VA Information Resource Center (VIREC) for the purpose of informing and updating VA researchers on current and pending happenings and changes regarding health data, databases, and medical informatics. *Data Issues Briefs* are produced monthly and are distributed through e-mail subscriptions. Previous releases are available on the VIREC Web site at <http://www.virec.research.med.va.gov>. If you wish to receive future issues directly or have any suggestions or comment about the *Data Issues Briefs*, please send an e-mail message to the VIREC at virec@research.hines.med.va.gov or call (708) 202-2413.